

REMARKS

This Amendment is in response to the Office Action dated February 24, 2005 in which claims 1, 12 and 13 were initially rejected and claims 2-11 and 14-22 were indicated as being allowable if rewritten in independent form. Applicants would like to thank the Examiner for the indicated allowability of the subject matter of claims 2-11 and 14-22 and respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of all pending claims in view of the above-amendments and the following remarks.

The present amendment cancels claims 1, 13-20 and 22, adds new claims 23-25 and makes former dependent claims 2, 3, 7 and 11 independent. The cancellation of allowable claims 14-20 and 22, which parallel claims 2, 3, 7, 11 and their dependent claims, is solely to minimize claim fees and should not be construed as an admission that these claims are not patentable.

I. CLAIM OBJECTIONS

Claims 1, 2, 4, 8, 13-15 and 17 were objected to because of minor informalities in the claim language. The Office Action provides suggested changes for each claim. In many instances, Applicants have amended the claims as suggested in the Office Action. However, Applicants respectfully disagree with certain suggested changes. For example, the Examiner suggests deleting "the" before "number of variables" so that the phrase would state "selecting N as number of variables...." Since the circuit inherently includes a plurality of variables, as recited in the relationships given in the preamble, "the" number inherently refers to the number of the variables selected

as N, and therefore satisfies the requirements of definiteness set forth at MPEP 2173.05(e).

Therefore, Applicant submit that the claims are definite and requests that this ground of rejection be withdrawn.

II. CLAIM REJECTION UNDER §102

Claims 1, 12 and 13 were rejected under §102(a) as being unpatentable over the Cortadella IEEE paper. By the present amendment, claims 1 and 13 have been canceled, and allowable claims 2, 3, 7 and 11 are made independent. Claim 12 is amended to depend from claim 7. Accordingly, all claims are now obviously in condition for allowance, and that action is respectfully solicited.

The Director is authorized to charge any fee deficiency required by this paper or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 23-1123.

Respectfully submitted,

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